

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for maintaining records in a database comprising:
  - (a) receiving at least a collection of first data items and a collection of second data items;
  - (b) disposing the first data items in a plurality of fields arranged in a predetermined format to form a first assemblage;
  - (c) disposing the second data items in a plurality of fields arranged in the predetermined format to form a second assemblage;
  - (d) ~~modifying~~ performing a normalization process to modify selected ones of the first data items and the second data items to conform to predetermined nomenclature, the normalization process being a function of time;
  - (e) associating a time of the normalization process with the first assemblage and second assemblage to facilitate renormalization of the first assemblage and second assemblage based on the time;
  - (e f) maintaining a record, in the database, having a plurality of fields arranged in the predetermined format;
  - (f g) determining whether a first particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature in a selected field of the first assemblage is identical to a second particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature in a field of the second assemblage corresponding to the selected field; and

(g h) if it is determined that the first particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature is identical to the second particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature, including in a field in the record a selected one of (1) the first data items in the predetermined nomenclature and (2) the second data items in the predetermined nomenclature.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein at (b) and (c) the first data items and the second data items are separated, rearranged, or combined to form the first assemblage and the second assemblage respectively.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein at (g h) the first data items and the second data items are assigned accuracy rankings and are selected based upon their accuracy rankings.

4. (currently amended) A system for maintaining records in a database comprising:

a communications interface for receiving at least a collection of first data items and a collection of second data items;

a converter for disposing the first data items in a plurality of fields arranged in a predetermined format to form a first assemblage, and for disposing the second data items in a plurality of fields arranged in the predetermined format to form a second assemblage;

a ~~normalizer~~ processor configured to ~~for modifying~~ perform a normalization process to modify selected ones of the first data items and the second data items to conform to predetermined nomenclature, the normalization process being a function of time, a time of the normalization process being associated with the first assemblage and second assemblage to facilitate renormalization of the first assemblage and second assemblage based on the time;

a database for maintaining a record, in the database, having a plurality of fields arranged in the predetermined format; and

a data masher for determining whether a first particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature in a selected field of the first assemblage is identical to a second particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature in a field of the second assemblage corresponding to the selected field, and for including in a field in the record a selected one of (1) the first data items in the predetermined nomenclature and (2) the second data items in the predetermined nomenclature, if it is determined that the first particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature is identical to the second particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature.

5. (previously presented) The system of Claim 4 wherein each of the first assemblage of data items and the second assemblage of data items in the predetermined nomenclature are associated with data accuracy rankings.

6. (previously presented) The system of Claim 5 wherein the data masher selects the first data items and the second data items based upon the data accuracy rankings.

7. (currently amended) A system for maintaining records in a database comprising:

a converter for converting at least a first collection of data items and a second collection of data items to at least a first assemblage and second assemblage, respectively, the first and second assemblages each having data items in fields which are arranged in a predetermined format;

a ~~normalizer~~ processor configured to ~~for converting~~ perform a normalization process to convert selected data items of the first assemblage and the second assemblage to conform to a predetermined nomenclature, the normalization process being a function of time, a time of the normalization process being associated with the first assemblage and second assemblage to facilitate renormalization of the first assemblage and second assemblage based on the time;

a database for maintaining a record having a plurality of fields arranged in the predetermined format; and

a data masher for determining a value representing a number of corresponding fields in the first assemblage and the second assemblage having identical data items therein, the data masher based on the value selecting at least one of the data items in the first assemblage and the second assemblage to form the record.

8. (original) The system of Claim 7 wherein the converter separates, rearranges, or combines data to form the first assemblage of data items and the second assemblage of data items.

9. (original) The system of Claim 7 wherein each of the of the first assemblage of data items and the second assemblage of data items in the predetermined nomenclature are associated with data accuracy rankings.

10. (previously presented) The system of Claim 9 wherein the data masher selects data items in the first assemblage and the second assemblage based upon the data accuracy ratings.

11. (currently amended) A system for maintaining records in a database comprising:

a converter for converting first records containing data items to uniform records having the data items organized in a uniform format, wherein the uniform records have one or more of the data items conforming to a predetermined nomenclature and a balance of the one or more of the data items not conforming to the predetermined nomenclature;

a normalizer processor configured to for converting perform a normalization process to convert the balance of the one or more data items to the predetermined nomenclature, and producing a collection of second records each having selected data items organized in fields according to the uniform format, the selected data items

conforming to the predetermined nomenclature, the normalization process being a function of time, a time of the normalization process being associated with the uniform records to facilitate renormalization of the uniform records based on the time; and

a data masher for selecting, from among the second records, at least a first selected record and a second selected record based on a value representing a number of corresponding fields in the first selected record and the second selected record having identical data items therein, and for selecting data items from the first selected record and second selected record to form a third data record, the third data record being stored in the database.

12. (original) The system of Claim 11 wherein the converter separates, rearranges, or combines the fields and the data items, from the first records, into the uniform format.

13. (currently amended) The system of Claim 11 wherein before the ~~normalizer converts the balance of the one or more data items~~ is converted, ~~it separates the one or more data items~~ are separated into components.

14. (previously presented) The system of Claim 11 wherein the data masher determines that the first selected record and the second selected record are equivalent if the value is above a predetermined threshold level value.

15. (currently amended) Software ~~recordable~~ recorded in a ~~tangible~~ computer-readable medium, said software including computer-readable ~~which includes machine readable~~ instructions for performing a process for building a database, ~~which stores to store~~ records corresponding to a plurality of data items, the process comprising:

(a) receiving at least a collection of first data items and a collection of second data items;

(b) disposing the first data items in a plurality of fields arranged in a predetermined format to form a first assemblage;

(c) disposing the second data items in a plurality of fields arranged in the predetermined format to form a second assemblage;

(d) ~~modifying~~ performing a normalization process to modify selected ones of the first data items and the second data items to conform to predetermined nomenclature, the normalization process being a function of time;

(e) associating a time of the normalization process with the first assemblage and second assemblage to facilitate renormalization of the first assemblage and second assemblage based on the time;

(e f) maintaining a record, in the database, having a plurality of fields arranged in the predetermined format;

(f g) determining whether a first particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature in a selected field of the first assemblage is identical to a second particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature in a field of the second assemblage corresponding to the selected field; and

(g h) if it is determined that the first particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature is identical to the second particular data item in the predetermined nomenclature, including in a field in the record a selected one of (1) the first data items in the predetermined nomenclature and (2) the second data items in the predetermined nomenclature.

16. (original) The process of Claim 15 wherein at (b) and (c) the first data items and the second data items are separated, rearranged, or combined to form the first assemblage and the second assemblage respectively.

17. (currently amended) The process of Claim 15 wherein at (g h) the first data items and the second data items are assigned accuracy rankings and are selected based upon their accuracy rankings.

18. (currently amended) A method for maintaining records in a database comprising:

converting first records containing data items to uniform records having the data items organized in a uniform format, wherein the uniform records have one or more of the data items conforming to a predetermined nomenclature and a balance of the one or more data items not conforming to the predetermined nomenclature;

~~converting~~ performing a normalization process to convert the balance of the one or more data items to the predetermined nomenclature, the normalization process being a



function of time, a time of the normalization process being associated with the uniform records to facilitate renormalization of the uniform records based on the time;

producing a collection of second records each having selected data items organized in fields according to the uniform format, the selected data items conforming to the predetermined nomenclature; and

selecting, from among the second records, at least a first selected record and a second selected record based on a value representing a number of corresponding fields in the first selected record and the second selected record having identical data items therein; and

selecting data items from the first selected record and second selected record to form a third data record, the third data record being stored in the database.

19. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the fields and the data items, from the first records, are separated, rearranged, or combined.

20. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the balance of the one or more data items are separated into components and converted into the predetermined nomenclature.

21. (previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the first selected record and the second selected record are determined to be equivalent if the value is above a predetermined threshold level value.